AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

receiving registration information;

executing a self-selection method on an apparatus ~~self-selecting a home agent~~ in response to receiving the registration information, the self-selection method enabling the apparatus to select itself as a home agent; and

responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.

2. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information is RFC 3422 compliant information.

3. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises timestamp information.

4. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises network access identifier information.

5. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises mobile address information.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method comprises performing a perfect hashing algorithm.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method comprises performing a round robin algorithm.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method comprises performing a Pearson algorithm.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the ~~step of self-selecting~~ self-selection method further comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

generating a value;

determining that the value is within a range of numbers; and

~~performing the step of~~ responding to the registration information in response to determining that the value is within the range of numbers.

10.   (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein load balancing is performed in response to performing the method of registering a mobile node.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the ~~step~~

~~of self-selecting~~ self-selection method further comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

generating a value that falls within a range of numbers;

comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers ~~performing the step of~~ responding

to the registration information.

12.   (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 11, wherein the value

is randomly generated.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

receiving registration information at a home agent;

generating a value that falls within a range of numbers in response to receiving the registration information;

comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.

14. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a bin.

15. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the value is randomly generated.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

receiving registration information at a home agent;

identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information;

generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;

comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.

17.   (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a secondary bin.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to checking a retransmission bit field.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to determining time elapsed from an initial registration attempt.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to identifying a number of registration attempts.

21.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an input interface configured ~~means~~ for receiving registration information;

a processing unit configured ~~means~~ for self-selecting the apparatus as a home agent in response to receiving the registration information[[;]] and ~~means~~ for responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.

22.   (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a home agent.

23.   (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.

24.   (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.

25.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an input interface configured ~~means~~ for receiving registration information at a home agent; and

    a processor configured to:

        ~~means for identifying~~ identify the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information;

        ~~means for generating~~ generate a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;

        ~~means for comparing~~ compare the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value; and

        if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, ~~means for responding~~ respond to the registration information.

26.   (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.

27.   (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.

28.   (New) A method of registering a mobile node comprising:

receiving registration information at a home agent;

identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information, wherein identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to at least a one of checking a retransmission bit field, determining time elapsed from an initial registration attempt and identifying a number of registration attempts;

generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;

comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.